

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PREFACE

The following plan for case management and administrative procedures is hereby adopted by the Circuit Judges of the Seventh Judicial District. It has, since January 1, 1999, served and will continue to serve the administration of justice well by dividing cases and workloads in a substantially equal fashion between the two judges of the Seventh Judicial District.

Now therefore, Chris E Williams, Circuit Judge Division I and Phillip H. Shirron, Circuit Judge Division II, pursuant to ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 14 hereby adopt and submit this plan for approval.

PLAN

1. Cases filed in the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial District shall be designated by the Clerks of the various Courts according to the following subject matter division; Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, Probate, and Domestic Relations.

2. All of the cases in each of the above subject matter divisions, except as hereinafter provided, shall be divided equally by the random mechanical selection described as follows:

Fifty (50) blue chips and fifty (50) red chips will be placed in a covered box.

Division I is designated red and Division II designated blue. A separate box for each subject matter, with said chips, will be maintained by the respective Circuit and Probate Clerk's of the District.

As each new case is filed, the respective Clerk will randomly draw a chip from the box and the color drawn will designate the Division to which the case will be assigned.

When all one hundred chips have been drawn, the process will begin anew.

3. It is agreed, however, that judicial expediency and consistency is better achieved with only one judge presiding over the juvenile subject matter cases in the Seventh Judicial District. Division I will be assigned the juvenile subject matter division cases in the Seventh Judicial District until hereafter agreed otherwise and an amended plan adopted.

4. Division II will be assigned all civil and criminal district court appeals, all domestic abuse petitions, and all cases prosecuted by the Child Support Enforcement Division of the State of Arkansas to compensate for the juvenile subject matter assignment. In addition, Division II will conduct as far as practical all plea and arraignments and all assignments of public defenders.

5. The 2004 A.O.C. calendar year statistics indicate of 3,301 filings, Division I received 1,710 cases and Division II received 1,591 cases under this plan for a difference of only 119 cases in Division I. The 2005 and 2006 statistics are substantially the same ratio.

Taking into consideration that Division II has before it at least once the Division I accused felons (468 in 2004) for plea and arraignment, bond and other initial criminal matters (for which Division II receives no "caseload" statistical credit) the caseloads of the two divisions are almost identical.

It has been, and will continue to be, the policy of each judge in the 7th District to exercise jurisdiction over all matters, regardless of subject matter division, and to act for, in behalf of, and in substitution for the other judge when circumstances warrant, when it is appropriate for the convenience of the litigants, attorneys, and witnesses, and at all other times when not to act may likely cause justifiable criticism of the judiciary of the 7th Judicial District.

6. The above case divisions will be by computerized random assignment when the A.O.C. develops and makes available said program per Administrative Order No. 14 (3)(a)(3).

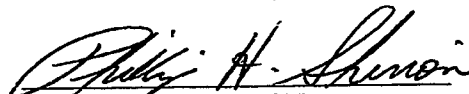
7. Per Act 576 of 2007 and the Supreme Court Per Curiam, the District has a drug court docket and Judge Chris E Williams appointed as the presiding judge of that docket.

8. All judges of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial District shall at all times have the authority to hear all matters within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. This administrative plan does not affect the right nor the power of the Circuit Judges to, by agreement, temporarily amend or modify any provision of this policy when, in their judgment, it is necessary for the fair administration of justice.



CHRIS E WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE - DIVISION I

Date: 5/31/07



PHILLIP H. SHIRRON
CIRCUIT JUDGE - DIVISION II

Date: 5/31/07